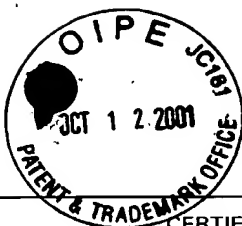


Serial No. 09/594,685

PATENT



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Kieran P. J. Murphy, M.D.

Atty. Docket No.: PA-5281

Customer No.: 9896

Serial No.: 09/594,685

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: June 16, 2000

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STRENGTHENING VERTEBRAL BODIES

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION

SIR:

The present amendment is being made to claim priority status to an earlier filed patent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/425,480 filed October 22, 1999, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,273,916 issued August 14, 2001. Enclosed is a supplemental Declaration signed by the inventor supporting the priority claim.

Applicant respectfully requests that all communications be mailed to the address associated with **Customer No. 9896**, which is:

**Cook Group Patent Office
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